## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 OPIC-06 /026 W ------098709 241955Z /73

R 240823Z MAY 78 FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2081 USDOC WASHDC

**UNCLAS KATHMANDU 2663** 

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: BTRA

SUBJECT: FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE FOR NEPALESE BUSINESSMAN

- 1. MR. SAGAR SJB RANA, PROMINANT LOCAL BUSINESSMAN INVOLVED PRIMARILY IN HANDICRAFT INDUSTRY, WILL BE VISITING US IN JUNE ON PROVATELY ARRANGED TRIP. HE PLANS TO BE IN WASHINGTON JUNE 12-15 AND WILL BE IN CONTACT WITH NEPALESE EMBASSY FIRST SECRETARY SINGHA BAHADUR BASNYAT AND ALSO HAS RON PERCIVAL'S NAME, NEA/INS.
- 2. IN ADDITION TO NORMAL COURTESIES THAT MIGHT BE EXTENDED TO GOOD FRIEND OF THIS MISSION, SAGAR RANA HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN MEETING WITH OPIC OFFICIALS AND ANY OTHERS THAT MIGHT BE SUGGESTED CONCERNING JOINT INVESTMENT PROJECTS IN NEPAL. HIS PRIME FOCUS IS APPARENTLY ON MINING OF SEMI-PRECIOUS STONES --PARTICULARLY AQUAMARINE AND TOURMALINE.
- 3. COMMENT: WE DOUBT THAT SAGAR RANA HAS FULLY THOUGHT OUT PROPOSAL TO PRESENT. GIVEN GENERALLY NEUTRAL POSITION OF USG ON QUESTION OF FACILITATING US INVESTMENT ABROAD, THIS LIKELY MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO PROVIDE MUCH CONCRETE ASSISTANCE TO RANA. WE HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT HE CAN BE HELPED IN MAKING FEW RELEVANT APPOINTMENTS, THUS AT LEAST LAYING GROUND WORK FOR FURTHER EXPLORATION OF INVESTMENT POSSIBILITIES.

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	Sheryl P. Walter	Declassified/Released	US Department of State	EO Systematic Review	20 Mar 2014
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